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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 002644

SIPDIS

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TAGS: PREL NATO AF CH

SUBJECT: AFGHAN ARMY SIZE INCREASE: DEMARCHE DELIVERED

REF: STATE 71479

Classified By: Classified by Acting Political Minister Counselor Ben Mo
eling. Reasons 1.4 (B/D)

¶1. (C) PolOff conveyed reftel points regarding increasing the size of the Afghan Army to MFA Asian Affairs Department Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Division Deputy Director Xu Wei on July 3. On July 7, Xu said that the Chinese Government had received information that the Afghan Army was planning to increase in size to 122,000, and not the 134,000 in the original demarche. PolOff said the discrepancy in numbers stemmed from the need for a 12,000 soldier pool for transients and trainees. Xu promised to "continue studying" the demarche.

RANDT